

May 2013



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Spokane-Pend Oreille County FSA Updates

Spokane-Pend Oreille County FSA Office

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Rapidly Approaching Deadlines

The Spokane-Pend Oreille County FSA Committee would like to remind producers of the following upcoming deadlines for several of our agency's programs:

- * General CRP Sign up period continues through June 14, 2013.
- * June 3 is the deadline to sign up for the 2013 ACRE Program.
- * June 7 is the deadline to sign up for the 2011 SURE program.
- * July 15 is the last day to report 2013 crops planted (Acreage Reporting).
- * July 15 is the final day to turn in your 2012 NAP production and sign requests for 2012 NAP applications for payment.
- * July 15 is the deadline to supply 2012 ACRE Production Reports.
- * August 2 is the 2013 DCP contract sign up deadline.
- * August 31 is the deadline for 2014 NAP coverage for Canola and Rapeseed.
- * September 30 is the deadline for 2014 NAP perennial forage and grazing crops.

If you are interested in, have questions about, or need an appointment to complete one of the above items please call our office for an appointment. If you have questions concerning one of the above deadlines please give the staff a call at 509-924-7350.

County Committee Nominations Requested

Two County Committee areas will be conducting elections in 2013. The deadline for submitting a nominating petition is August 1, 2013. Petitions can be submitted by any eligible voter and should be requested by calling our office at 509-924-7350.

In Spokane County Local Administrative Areas (LAA) number 2 is up for elections. This is the area west of the Colfax/Pullman Highway to the Spokane River and then follows the Spokane River around to the Lincoln County line. This LAA goes from the south end of the county to the north end of the county and butts up against Lincoln County. A few of the communities in the LAA are Cheney, Airway Heights, Medical Lake, Deep Creek, Nine Mile

Falls, and west of Spangle and west of Plaza.

In Pend Oreille County LAA number 4 is up for election. Charlotte Yergens has held this position for 9 years and is no longer eligible to run due to term limits. We are required to get a new candidate from this area on the committee. Any operator or owner in this area is eligible to be a candidate for elections. The area boundaries are a little difficult to explain but the area is everything south of Dalkena crossing the Pend Oreille river and then goes north up to south Skookum Lake as the northern boundary and east to the state line. These are the communities of Camden, Newport, Dalkena, Sacheen, Davis, Diamond, Bead and South Skookum Lakes. If you have questions on the exact boundaries contact our office.

County Committee members are elected to a 3-year term and the committee meets about 8 times per year. This position is paid by the hour and does include travel reimbursements for mileage and time.

As mentioned above, Pend Oreille County will be required to have a new COC representative. Interested candidates can speak with current committee members Charlotte Yergens or Larry Cordes about the duties or call the Spokane FSA office at 509-924-7350.

Farm Storage Facility Loans Available

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. These facilities can be to handle or store grain, hay or fruits and vegetables. Loans can be made to build new, remodel, or increase the safety of your current facility.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department. For the month of May 2013 the 7-year interest rate was 1.250 percent.

Funding is available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction begins. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

General CRP Sign up Continues

June 14th is the deadline for submitting a bid during the 45th General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign up. Bids are being accepted on new land or CRP contracts that expire September 30, 2013. CRP bids are competitive and based on a point system specific to the land and practice being bid. CRP contracts pay an annual rental payment in exchange for planting grasses and legumes that protect the field(s) from erosion and provide wildlife habitat. Contracts last for 10-years and USDA pays approximately 50 percent of the cost to establishing the CRP stand. Land eligibility is based on the erodibility of the soil and must have an Erodibility Index (EI) of 8 or greater. The land must also meet cropping history requirements and is based on crops planted in 2002 - 2007. For farms with perennial crops we look at a 12 year history of plantings.

If you have any questions on the general sign up please call the county office. Sign-ups are being made on an appointment basis so please call in advance.

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